AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-19 (Canceled)

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A method of forming a thin light polarization film comprising the steps of:

(a)   depositing a layer of photochemically stable azodye in an isotropic phase on a substrate,

(b)   illuminating the azodye layer with actinic radiation to define a principal absorption axis of said azodye layer,

(c)   applying a thin layer of an isotropic absorber solution onto said azodye layer to thereby produce a lyotropic liquid crystal,

(d)   partially evaporating said solution to form a gel, and

(e)   baking said gel to form an anisotropic absorber layer.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said actinic radiation is linearly polarized and the principal absorption axis of said azodye layer is orthogonal to the polarization vector of said actinic radiation.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said actinic radiation is non-polarized and is incident on said azodye layer at an oblique angle.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein the azodye layer is illuminated through a mask whereby only selected regions of said layer are aligned.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 23 wherein the azodye layer is illuminated through several masks in sequence whereby different regions of said azodye layer may be formed with different alignment axes.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said azodye layer is formed with a plurality of pixels.

Claim 26 (Original): A method as claimed in claim 25 wherein said pixels include at least two different alignment axes.

Claim 27 (Original): A method as claimed in claim 25 wherein all said pixels are formed with the same alignment axis.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said azodye layer is illuminated through a photo-patterned mask that transforms linearly polarized or non-polarized actinic radiation into actinic radiation having a spatial distribution of polarization vectors.

Claim 29 (Original): A method as claimed in claim 28 wherein said photo-patterned mask is a light polarization mask.
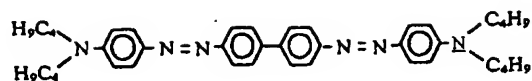
Claim 30 (Original): A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein said photo-patterned mask is a birefringence mask.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein more than one absorber material is provided and different absorbers are chosen with different colors.

Claims 32 and 33 (Canceled)

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): A method of forming a thin light polarization film comprising the steps of:

(a)   depositing a layer of photochemically stable azodye in an isotropic phase on a substrate,

(b)   illuminating the azodye layer with actinic radiation to define a principal absorption axis of said azodye layer,

(c)   applying a thin layer of an isotropic absorber solution onto said azodye layer to thereby produce a lyotropic liquid crystal,

(d)   partially evaporating said solution to form a gel, and

(e)   baking said gel to form an anisotropic absorber layer,
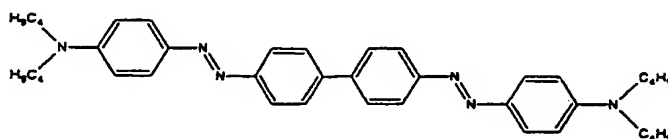
wherein the azodye has the structure:

Claim 35 (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein the azodye

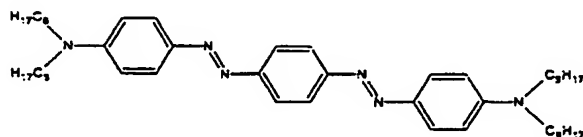is selected from the group of dyes having the structures:
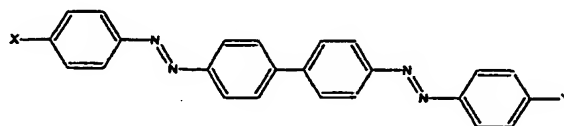
X, Y=-NR, -N(R)$_2$, -R: where R=Alkyl(C$_1$-C$_{18}$)

(1)

(2)

(3)

Claim 36 (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said

azodye material is deposited in a layer of from 0.05 to 1.5μm thick.

Claim 37 (Original): A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said absorber material has a thickness of from 0.3 to 1.5 μm.

Claim 38 (Original): A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said thin light polarization film is formed on a substrate forming an inner surface of a liquid crystal cell.

Claim 39 (Withdrawn): A thin light polarization film deposited on a substrate and comprising a plurality of pixels, wherein said pixels are formed with different axes of polarization.

Claim 40 (Withdrawn): A liquid crystal cell comprising a liquid crystal material received within front and rear substrates, wherein an internal surface of one of said substrates is formed with deposited thereon a thin light polarization film as claimed in claim 37.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): A method as claimed in claim 34 wherein the azodye layer is illuminated through a mask whereby only selected regions of said layer are aligned.

Claim 42 (New): The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the layer of photochemically stable azodye in an isotropic phase is formed on a flexible polymeric carrier sheet prior to being deposited on the substrate.